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The Evans & Reeves Grapevine

Los Angeles, Calif.

VOL. 3

JULY, 1952

Hedging Around?

Driving through our residential sections one gets a feeling that the hospitable owners are extending to those who pass by, an invitation to share their gardens. However there are times when a hedge is a must.

As a barrier against actual depredation, spiny Carissa, the colorful Natal Plum, proves effective and attractive. But our requirement of a hedge is usually to blot out an undesirable view, to prevent being unduly observed, to provide a backdrop for a specific planting, to trim the edge of a flowering border or lawn with a dwarf line. Naturally the material used will depend on the function of the hedge and the undesirable view may call for a solid barrier such as can be obtained by the use of Viburnums, (the fast growing *V. japonicum* or *V. robusta*); *Ligustrum texanum*; *Rhamnus alaternus* or *Myoporum laetum*.

Seclusion will most likely demand more height than the preceding. Certain Bam-

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It's Time For . . .

It's still FUCHSIA time at the nursery. Hanging baskets, as we anticipated, have been moving out rapidly, but we have a good supply! We also have a splendid assortment of all types including many new introductions in eight inch pots at \$2.25 each and in one gallon cans at \$1. and \$1.25 each.

PELARGONIUMS in colorful array are delighting those who view them. We continually strive to improve these beauties, breeding for larger flower clusters, better colors, and compact habit, and we feel we can be justly proud of our current offerings. Fine plants in four inch pots are 85 cents.

Now is a good time to check on a few perennials. Varieties suitable for local con-

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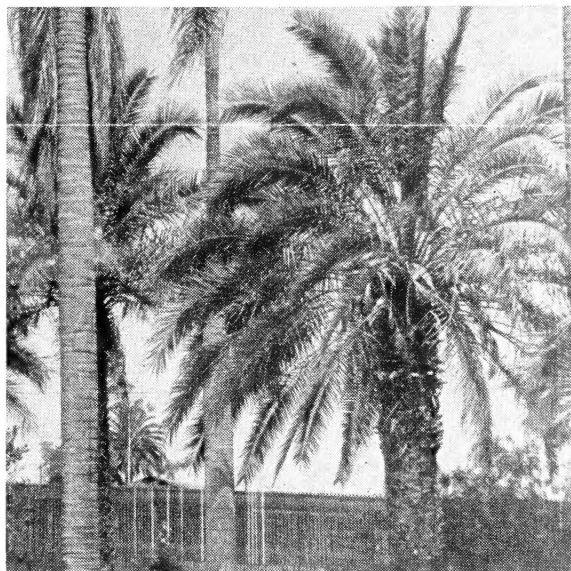
MATRIMONIAL NOTES FROM ALL OVER

Monster to Midget

Even the sun-seekers are slaves of the deadline, as witness this faithful report of the matrimonial meanderings of the genus Phoenix from a temporary escapee from the toils of commerce:

Dear Grapevine:

Phoenix, in addition to being the name of a western city and the mythological bird of fire, was the name given to an imposing race of palms by the ancient Greeks. The most familiar representative on the local scene is *Phoenix canariensis*, the Canary Island date palm, which lends



a majestic grace to Southern California streets and parks. Although occasionally employed as a pot plant in its juvenile stages, this palm is so vigorous that unless one lives in a garden measured in acres there is no place for it. It can become a Frankenstein monster.

At the other end of the scale we have the pygmy date palm, *Phoenix Loureiri* (*Roebelenii*), with a romantic origin in the Nam Ou river valley of Indo-China. A pot plant favorite for generations because of its feathery beauty and status quo quality, this palm is now eagerly sought for modern landscape application. Its extremely slow

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IT'S TIME FOR —

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ditions now in bloom in one gallon cans at 85 cents include: PENSTEMON, TRITONIA, SALVIA, DIMORPHOTHECA, VERONICA, STOKESIA, ASTERS, and LINARIA.

Grey foliage plant material has been much in demand, and during the past several months we have had to disappoint many would-be buyers. At this time we have replenished these items and can now offer the following: HELICHRYSUM PETIOLATUM, TEUCRIUM FRUTICANS, LOTUS MASCAENSIS, LEUCOPHYLLUM TEXANUM, CALOCEPHALUS BROWNII, ARTEMESIA ARBORESCENS, and SENEIO COMPACTA. Along with these we have again renewed our stock of billowing grey-green MELIANTHUS MAJOR both in one and five gallon cans. A recent arrival at the nursery is the interesting blue-green EUPHORBIA DENDROIDES. This plant may be grown into mound of about five feet, crowned by chartreuse blooms reminding one of its better known relative, E. biglandulosa. (From 95 cents to \$1.25 in one gallons, \$4 and \$4.50 in fives.)

Not new, but timely is the KAHILI GINGER (*Hedychium gardnerianum*). This ginger lily planted in a position protected from the noonday sun performs wonderfully in our coastal area, and nothing will recall better, happy times spent in the islands than will the pervading fragrance of the Kahili Ginger. (\$1.50 and \$4.)

A number of vines may be seen in bloom at the nursery now, among them the showy PHAEDRANTHUS BUCCINATORIUS (*Bignonia cherere*) with its clusters of orange red trumpets; sky blue THUNBERGIA GRANDIFLORA; SOLANUM MACRANTHERUM with vivid violet-blue flowers; the Easter Lily vine (BEAUMONTIA GRANDIFLORA); and TECOMA JASMINOIDES ROSEA with its shining foliage and delicate pink flowers. These are available in one gallon cans (\$1.25 and \$1.50) as well as the larger sizes (\$4 and \$4.50).

A flowering tree much in evidence of late is the CAPE CHESTNUT (CALODENDRON CAPENSIS). Due to the plentiful rainfall this fine pale-rose flowering shade tree has done particularly well this year, reminding us of the necessity of the deep watering which we have from time to time advocated for your trees. If you are seeking a broad leaf evergreen shade tree

Hedging Around?

(Continued from front page)

boos will be in order, but not in a straight, clearly defined line that will look like the familiar windbreak surrounding an orchard, but instead, a clump here and there interplanted with a tree or two with foliage that would blend. *Rauwolfia* is a possibility, or the fast growing *Prunus Lyonii* (Catalina Cherry). Whatever the material, the planting is important. The effect of a spite fence is to be avoided when one plants to cut a neighbor's view, even though he would be the first to acknowledge the necessity of the planting. Try to give your neighbor something pleasing to look at, too.

Often it is possible to combine the defining of a boundary line with a backdrop of lush green that will compliment colorful plantings—something which can be maintained at about five feet in height. Round-leaved *Myrsine africana* (of which there is an excellent example in the front garden at the Nursery) is one.

For a dwarf hedge border there are a number of plants from which to choose:—the traditional *Buxus japonica* (Japanese box); *Myrtus compacta*, neat and good looking the year round; *Veronica buxifolia*; and for grey materials, to exclude Dusty Miller, try *Santolina* (Lavender Cotton), or *Calocephalus Brownii*, a foot-high Australian. Its naturally dense twiggy growth makes it ideal for a dwarf hedge.

Hedges can be unique. Recently we were given a problem. The hedge effect was wanted but there was not sufficient width for planting a regular hedge. No, a vine would not do. You perhaps already have the answer. Rough stakes driven in at intervals, wire stretched, and Evergreen Pear espaliered. *Pyracantha*, *Grewia* or Loquat might have been used as an alternate. Yes, hedges can be interesting!

which can put on an eye-catching display of early summer bloom, consider this one, which may be seen now to advantage along Sunset Boulevard in the Riviera. (\$4.50.)

LOOK TO THE STAKING, TYING UP, AND DISBUDDING OF DAHLIAS AND CHRYSANTHEMUMS, AND SEE THAT ROUTINE SPRAYING, AND FEEDING ARE NOT NEGLECTED.



SEDGE WITH THE FRINGE ON TOP

EMPHATIC AQUATIC

The plant to which we direct your attention this month would hardly seem to need a formal introduction as its cultivation by man antedates the advent of our civilization by several thousand years! The fabled plant of Egypt, *Cyperus papyrus*, supplied that necessity of civilization, paper, to ancient Egyptians as well as food, weaving and braiding materials, decorations, and, so she reports, Moses to the Pharaoh's daughter, for *Cyperus papyrus* is the bulrush of the Bible.

It is not, however, for its economic value that we recommend papyrus to you, but for the same decorative qualities which caused the Egyptians to raise temple columns in the triangular shape characteristic of the stems of this sedge and to utilize it frequently as a decorative motif. An aquatic plant in its native haunts, *Cyperus papyrus* raises four to eight foot stems from sheath like leaves to a tuft of graceful threads which constitute the flower of this stately plant. This perennial need not be planted in a pool, but will prosper in soil alone provided it receives ample water in this location. In sun or shade it will add graceful emphasis to the site of a reflection pool, garden fountain or waterfall, an informal swimming pool, or a tropical setting. Approximately doubling its size annually, it maintains its robust appearance throughout the year. (\$1.25 and \$5.)

Hugh Evans

Theodore Payne, who has done so much to bring to the attention of the world the charm and beauty of our California wild flowers, was honored on the occasion of his eightieth birthday recently by the members of the Southern California Horticultural Institute. Certainly this modest and unassuming man is entitled to all honor and praise for his devotion and zeal in preserving our wild flower fields from desecration and destruction. He may not have been rewarded with the golden smiles of fortune, but as he thinks back on bygone days and vanished scenes, he must feel a glow of pride and satisfaction in realizing the esteem and affection with which he is regarded and in the knowledge that he has earned the deep gratitude of all who love natural beauty.

For my own part when I look back fifty years and more and summon up the vision of those entrancing wild flowers clothing hill and valley and canyon with their indescribable grace and loveliness, and realize how much of this natural beauty is gone forever to make way for civilization and progress, I feel an unstinted admiration for the man who devoted his life to the task of seeing that beauty in our countryside did not wholly perish.

PHOENIX ARCADIA

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progress means that a specimen of less than ten years is hardly noticeable and there is a definite limit to the availability of old timers.

Comes now the point of all the above—Phoenix Arcadia, the issue of a marriage between *P. canariensis* and *P. Loureiri*, a reasonably fast grower to a comfortable size with excellent color, texture and form. The mature plants have remarkable uniformity, sturdy but not gross trunks, surmounted by dense crowns of rich green arching plumes, softer and much more feathery than the Canary palm's, yet approaching them in size.

Here we are then: if you are planting a park choose Phoenix *canariensis*, if the project is a mantlepiece use Phoenix *Loureiri*, but if it's your garden you wish to adorn come and get one of our beautiful new Phoenix Arcadias. (\$7.50 in five gallon containers.)

Ever thine,
Bill

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